

BIG LABOR WAR PREDICTED AS THE BUILDING BOSSES LOCK OUT LATHERS' UNION

A lockout against union lathers was put into effect by the Building Construction Employers' ass'n at noon today.

It is the first move of a concerted action builders are going to take in order to crush the unions into submitting to the agreement the builders want to force upon the union employees.

To some it looks like a defy from the camp of the builders, a declaration of war. The builders have been "feeling their oats" of late, and have grown so cocky that it is said there has been quiet talk in their own circle of picking up the issue and going to battle with the laboring forces.

What looks like a step towards active trouble was made by the employers today: when it was announced that a new union of lathers would be started at once in opposition to the existing union.

"Mexico will be moved right up to Chicago if the building erectors carry out their threats to start a new union, and they know it," said Fred Wayman, business agent for the lathers.

Other labor men say Wayman's words are true, that a move on the part of the contractors to put a disrupting union in the field would be an open invitation for trouble. They believe that is the reason the builders' trust would make such a move.

Such an opposition would be simply a cloak for sheltering strike-breakers. No legitimate union man could work under its auspices.

The lathers will have the active support of nearly all the building trades' employees. At a central meeting held last night in Bricklayers' hall, Peoria and Monroe, the sheet metal workers, glaziers, painters, machinists, wood workers and hoisting engineers promised that their organizations would actively support the lathers, to the extent of walking out, if necessary.

It looks like the builders have started to hoe a hard row in their endeavor to force the joint agreement down the throats of the unions.

The points around which the present lockout is based are: Acceptance of the agreement; raising of the daily wages from \$5.75 to \$6, and retention of March 1 as the date for signing new agreements.

The point immediately at issue is that of the agreement date. The lathers say the present agreement ended on March 1, except in a few special instances; the builders contend the date of expiration is April 30.

"We will not submit to the change in the date, nor will we sign the new agreement," said Wayman. "To sign the new agreement would be to sign away our rights as union men; we would be signing in favor of the open shop and in favor of principles that are directly opposed to all unionism and the good of the laboring man."

But 10 per cent of the union plasterers in the city will be affected by the lockout, says Wayman. The council shelters 800 union lathers. Ninety per cent of those employed are working with "fair" contractors. Less than 100 will be affected by the lockout.

The lockout went into effect at noon today. "We will simply rest on our oars and await the next move from the other side," said Wayman. Included in the lathers' council are Unions Nos. 74, 150, 167, 183, 188, 206, 338.

—O—O— BITS OF NEWS

John T. Markham, 76, brother of C. H. Markham, president Illinois Central, dead, New Orleans. Once lost from brother for 45 years.

Twice Desplaines station police were rushed in answer to telephone calls that murder was being committed near by. Found two cats celebrating on back fence.